

Robert Rutherford to George Washington, November 22, 1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM ROBERT RUTHERFORD, ESQ.¹

WINCHESTER the 22d. of Novr. 1757

SIR

It is much against my desire, to give you trouble in your Circumstances; but as I am inform'd that it is your Misfortune not to be free'd of Publick Business even now: I write you the Present Circumstance of the Company—I imagine by this time they are about 40 and as the Enemy is discovered Nigh Capn. McKenzy's have Ordered Lieut. Swearingin with the men recruited by him, to Scour the woods about back Creek & c. and to Send Out Scouts along the banks of Potowmack Cape capon, & the Warm Springs to make discoveries, and have ordered Lieut. McDowell to act in the Same Manner in the District of Creedon Creek—but among the Populace (ever grossly Ignorant) there seems to Prevail Some Objections that Retard the Speedy raising the Company—which I hope you can readily remove—Notwithstanding they have been assured to the Contrary in the Strongest terms—they are Possess'd of the Notion that they are to be ensnar'd, into the Regiment So that if you can Certify 2. or 3. words under your hand that they are not to serve inlisted as Soldiers or to serve as such in Keeping Garrison, Mounting Guards & c. but only to act as Rangers under their own Officers, it would greatly facilitate, and Expedite the Matter, or if they Could be inlisted at First for 12. Months. it would be infinitely the best Scheem & woud render it in my Power to make my own Choice of men imediately, and should

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always be able to keep the Company Compleate, as very few of those, woud ever Leave the Company while their Service Should be wanting

I greatly regret your Indisposition, Sincerely wish you a Safe Recovery, and am with Just Esteem

Sir Your most Obt. Hble Sert. R. RUTHERFORD

1 Son of Thomas and Susannah (Dobbin) Rutherford, married Mrs. Mary Howe; their daughter Susan married John Peyton. Robert Rutherford represented Frederick, Berkeley, and Hampshire counties in the Senate, 1777–1785.